

### Draft criteria for newly titled payments within Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.

Please refer to the framework set out in Appendix 6 for detail of how these payments would be structured in according to demand ad budget capacity.

Crisis Payment	
<p>A sudden event or change in circumstances has led to a lack of resource to provide food / energy / clothing (in limited circumstances) for the household.</p> <p>Applicant must have been resident in Derbyshire for at least three months (existing DDF criteria).</p> <p>Limit of two awards in 12 month (rolling) period.</p> <p>Assessed application within three working days (existing DDF policy) most applications are assessed within 24 hours.</p>	
Differentiated circumstances	<p><b>CATEGORY ONE: Disaster, or fleeing violence</b> For example - Fleeing domestic violence, or application arising from fire/flood and there is an immediate need for food / heating / clothes (NB not same as Council Hardship Fund)</p> <p><b>CATEGORY TWO: Income has stopped, or low income and has reduced</b> For example - New benefit claim awaiting outcome, sudden reduction in income (eg child maintenance not paid or work ended – not paid). Probable referral for advice</p> <p><b>CATEGORY THREE: Income has recently reduced, and finances have not adjusted yet</b> For example - hours reduced (within last 2 months) leading to reduction in income; and <b>Financial crisis arising from bailiffs / priority debt issue.</b> Probable referral for advice</p> <p><b>CATEGORY FOUR:</b> Wider change of circumstances or event leading to sudden financial pressure.</p> <p><b>Which categories can lead to an award is determined by the “tier” in which the fund is operating within the prioritisation framework.</b></p>
Consideration of Vulnerability - Within prioritisation framework	
Re-settlement Grant	
<p>Support to set up home and/or establish a settled way of life following a period without a settled way of life For example – moving from a refuge, or returning home from a care setting, or leaving supported accommodation, or having been homeless.</p>	

Application made by/with a support worker but must be with applicant's consent.

Applicant must have been resident in Derbyshire for at least three months (existing DDF criteria).

Applicant must be in receipt of, or about to be in receipt of, a relevant qualifying benefit (means tested) (existing DDF criteria), and have savings of under £1,000 (existing DDF criteria).

Limit of one award in 12 month (rolling) period.

Assessed application within five working days of necessary information being provided by the support worker.

**PRIMARY ITEMS:**

Bed and bedding  
Cooker  
Fridge Freezer  
Kitchen Equip pack  
Clothing (one off spare set)

plus - removal costs

plus - social care specified need (requires TM approval)

**SECONDARY ITEMS:**

Second hand sofa  
Curtains (bedroom and living room only)  
Washing machine?(disabled or child u18)?

Consideration of Vulnerability - Within prioritisation framework

**Essential items grant**

The applicant's household is under pressure and has a need for primary or secondary items as set out below.

This pressure could be as a result of a number of factors, including

- Moving property due to pressure – eg separation, eviction, over-crowding, moving closer to family for support;
- Moving property for financial reasons – eg downsizing or moving due to bedroom tax / benefit cap;
- Financial pressure means the applicant cannot replace essential items – eg on means tested benefit income without scope for accessing Budgeting Loans (DWP) or Universal Credit Budgeting Advances (DWP).

An award of an Essential Items Grant could support the prevention of homelessness by alleviating some of the pressure in the household.

Applicant must have been resident in Derbyshire for at least three months (existing DDF criteria).

Applicant must be in receipt of, or about to be in receipt of, a relevant qualifying benefit (means tested) (existing DDF criteria), and have savings of under £1,000 (existing DDF criteria).

Limit of one award in 12 month (rolling) period.

Assessment commenced within ten working days of necessary information / evidence being received from the applicant.

**PRIMARY ITEMS:**

Bed and bedding  
Cooker  
Fridge Freezer  
Washing machine (disabled / LT health condition or ch u 18)

**SECONDARY ITEMS:**

Second hand sofa  
Curtains (bedroom and living room only)  
Washing machine (not disabled / LT health condition or ch u18)

Consideration of Vulnerability - Within prioritisation framework

**Scope for possible Household Support Grant criteria**

Wider circumstances that have led to a lack of resource to provide food / energy for the household or cost of living pressures.

Applicant must have been resident in Derbyshire for at least three months (existing DDF/HSF criteria).

Differentiated circumstances

**Building 'above' the categories within the Crisis Payment scope.**

**Could include:**

**CATEGORY FOUR from Crisis Payment scope:**

Wider change of circumstances or event leading to sudden financial pressure. (where the Council's DDF budget does not reach this category).

**AND**

**Wider 'financial pressure reasons'**

For example - regular income is in place but not sufficient; increased costs / unexpected expense; managing non-priority debts with probable referral for advice

Vulnerability noted to inform case assessing conversation.

Could be limited to two in a 12 month period – depending on scale of additional funding and wider Council framework for use of funds.

Scheme subject to appropriate elected member decision making when funds made available.